



**State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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September 5, 2002

MaryAnn Manoogian, Director
Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services
57 Regional Drive, Suite 3
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: New Hampshire Energy Plan

SEP 12 2002

Dear Ms. Manoogian:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) appreciates the numerous opportunities the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (ECS) has provided for input into the New Hampshire Energy Plan. The Executive Committee meetings, stakeholder meetings, and public hearings have provided DES the opportunity to be a part of the development of New Hampshire's first comprehensive energy plan. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to summarize what we believe should be our central issues in an energy plan for your consideration.

We believe that comprehensive energy planning should integrate environmental and economic concerns. In fact, we believe that sound energy policy will result in recommendations for diversified fuel sources, competitive prices and a reliable fuel supply if these three areas are considered in an integrated approach. In addition, energy policy should not create economic hardships in other parts of the economy by causing increased health costs and other impacts from poor air quality. For these reasons, New Hampshire's energy planning should include aggressive measures to promote and develop renewable energy resources and seize the opportunities for cost effective energy efficiency investments. We are pleased that the planning process undertaken by ECS has considered economic and environmental impacts of our energy policies, and hope that this approach continues in the future at the state level.

DES strongly encourages the development and use of renewable energy systems to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels for power generation. Fossil fuel emissions contribute to respiratory illness (including asthma) and other health related problems, ground level ozone, acid rain, regional haze and climate change. Energy policy that reduces reliance on fossil fuels also improves energy security by improving fuel diversity, increasing reliability, and encouraging distributed energy generation. The use of less polluting energy generation technologies that diversify the state's energy generation portfolio is a win-win for the economy and the environment by reducing electricity supply shortages, price spikes, and harmful air pollutant emissions.

We commend you for taking the first step toward creating a process for considering energy, environmental and economic policies in New Hampshire. We particularly appreciated being a part of the public input process and look forward to continuing to work with you and the diverse group of stakeholders on energy planning in the future. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact Joanne Morin (271-5552) at DES' Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Chief Air Programs Manager
Air Resources Division